

The Sprint Festival

Camden Peoples Theatre

The Sprint Festival is a worthy annual event that showcases new and emerging theatre talent. The quality, by the very nature of the event, is very uneven, but never less than fascinating.

On the Press night I saw three 'events', the first of these, 'Exposure'- only eight minutes long, involved going into a dark room and being encouraged to sit at one side of a table. The only light was from an occasionally lit torch.



Across from me sat a blonde woman who handed me a pair of earplugs through which she narrated some of her life story. She never spoke and it became like a séance which was very relaxing. The performer was Jo Bannon.

Next up was 'A Faultline' written and performed by Jessica Latowicki who has a charming, infectious personality and she told us that in 35 minutes time she was going to throw herself at a wall fifteen times. She was very entertaining and of course we never believed her about the wall.

Until she did. Fifteen times. Very disturbing.

The third performance was 'The Watery Journey of Nereus Pike' by Laura Mugridge. Laura reported that she had recently stayed at an old lighthouse. During her stay she had come across various objects – books, ornaments and memorabilia that had clearly been left by former inhabitants of the lighthouse and which put in her mind a story centred on Norse Gods. It was this story that occupied the rest of the piece ably assisted by Tom Adams and his guitar and using a level of non-threatening audience participation. A good way to end the evening.

Ted Craig

Sprint Festival continues at Camden Peoples Theatre until Sunday 24 March

Times and performances vary

All tickets £10, concs £8

Box Office 08444 77 1000

www.cptheatre.co.uk